



**Final Report From  
Missouri's Delegation  
To The White House Conference  
On Library And Information Services**



*On December 19, 1977 Governor Teasdale signed a proclamation calling for a Missouri Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services. The conference was held November 30-December 1, 1978.*

The White House Conference on Library and Information Services (November 15-19, 1979) is over, but the work is not finished. The resolutions, including proposals for a National Library and Information Services Act, went to the White House in March 1980, and President Carter has appointed an inter-agency task force to make recommendations based on the resolutions. As individuals and in groups, we must continue to press for action on those problems and issues addressed by the White House Conference, and we in Missouri must continue to work for the resolution of those issues raised at our own Governor's Conference. Perhaps the most important fact about the WHCLIS was that it was merely a beginning. White House Conference delegates have been contacting their federal and state lawmakers about library legislation. Now is the time for citizens and groups to contact legislators on library issues. This document makes suggestions for appropriate action. We must all rally for the cause of libraries *now* and become activists; we have been complacent too long.

In this report, the resolutions passed at the Missouri Governor's Conference have been organized into three broad categories: those calling for state legislation or action, those calling for federal legislation or action and those calling for action at all levels-local through national.

## **RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR STATE ACTION OR LEGISLATION**



Several resolutions dealt with Missouri issues and were not carried forward to the White House Conference. Governor's Conference delegates and all interested citizens should pursue these issues at the local and state level.

**Resolved, that library services should be widely available to all the people, therefore,**

- a. basic library services should be provided in all counties, with state assistance to areas that have no libraries;
- b. more sophisticated information services should be available at the regional level within the state, and provision of services should be coordinated by a statewide plan, with clearly delineated areas of local and regional autonomy.

As yet, no formal action has been taken to draft legislation to provide basic library services in all counties and/or to provide state assistance to those counties now without library services. Proposed enabling legislation for Missouri library networks will allow for regional services, and, if passed, should lead to a more specific statewide plan for library services.

*Implementation Strategy:*

Lay delegates to the Governor's Conference should take the initiative to find other citizens or groups in their community to work toward basic library services. Suggested groups are service organizations, P.T.A.s, Chambers of Commerce, professional organizations, Women's Federated Clubs and the State Library. Representatives from these groups could form a Citizens Library Advocacy Group to initiate needed legislation.

An advocacy group might sponsor a "Funding Workshop." Issues which might be addressed are: What is basic library service? How much does a good library cost? How do we enlist public support for funding programs?

**Resolved, that the state remove the present tax limit of twenty-five cents for each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation on property for public library purposes.**

This issue is supported by the Missouri Library Association, and its Legislative

Committee continues to work for legislative support. During the 1979-80 legislative session, the Kansas City School District (authority for the public library) was authorized to raise its tax to thirty cents. A future goal is to raise the limit statewide.  
*Implementation Strategy:*

Lay citizens and professional library organizations should inform their legislators about the need for this bill. When this bill reaches the voting stage, citizens should lobby their legislators.

**Resolved, that in the interest of cost effectiveness, the Missouri Department of Higher Education, in cooperation with the federal government, provide direction to encourage standardization of design of computer software and hardware systems for libraries so that they will be compatible for interlibrary service nationwide.**

WHCLIS resolutions C1, C7, C8 and C14 all deal with problems of standardization of developing technology and compatibility. The importance of this issue is widely recognized. "Interfacing" and "intermeshing" are frequently used in WHCLIS resolutions to indicate the necessity for technological compatibility. The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education recognizes the importance of this problem and now has a Computer Facilitating Committee.

**Resolved, that the State Library be responsible for centralized direction and interfacing of Missouri's**



*Missouri Governor's Conference Work Group*

regional library networks.

**Resolved**, that the State Library be provided with the funds to finance totally the administrative costs of the regional library networks.

**Resolved**, that in order to maximize the availability of services...to society at large, cooperation and the sharing of resources between general and special purpose libraries should be facilitated and supported to the fullest possible extent.

*Implementation Strategy:*

The Missouri state plan, approved by the membership of the Missouri Library Association and endorsed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in 1977, recommends the establishment of a statewide bibliographic database which will tie together the regional networks and prepare for national networking.

Since the Governor's Conference, the Missouri Libraries Network Board has made substantial progress toward the development of a coordinated Missouri network. The University of Missouri Libraries are also moving toward cooperative projects which will probably have statewide implications.

Network enabling legislation was introduced in the 1979-80 Missouri legislative session, but died in committee. The MLA Legislative Committee plans to re-introduce this bill in the next session (1980-81).

**Resolved**, that the General Assembly be requested to establish a study commission to:

1. consider the recommendations of both this Governor's Conference and of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services;
2. review existing laws and regulations on libraries;
3. review the role of the State Library and its funding in order to provide for the promotion and implementation of the above recommendations;
4. review how the total educational dollar is spent in order to recommend basic support for library services as an educational resource.

The study commission should report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, the Governor, and the people of Missouri by January 1, 1981.

*Implementation Strategy:*

This proposition has support in the legislature and the support of MLA. The Legislative Committee of MLA will continue to pursue the appointment of a study commission.

All citizens should be alert to pending legislation and take steps to help.

Personal contacts were made in both Houses for the establishment of a study commission. The then Speaker of the House felt this type of study was more appropriately assigned to a standing committee.



*Delegates voting at the Missouri Governor's Conference*

The CBHE has appointed a Library Planning Committee to help them better understand library needs.

**Resolved**, that the State Library authorities continue to implement the adoption of standards of quality for operation of general purpose libraries, taking into account any national guidelines that may be helpful or useful.

*Implementation Strategy:*

There are, as yet, no quality standards for libraries in Missouri. Since this resolution calls for appropriate action by the State Librarian, interested citizens should seek periodic progress reports from Charles O'Halloran, State Librarian, Missouri State Library, 308 E. High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, (314) 751-4214.

Professional organizations, friends groups, library boards as well as interested citizens should seek periodic progress reports.

**Resolved**, that at least one full regional depository for U.S. Federal documents be established and maintained in the state of Missouri and that the Missouri State Legislature be requested to fund the same.

*Implementation Strategy:*

WHCLIS A11 deals with access to federal documents. The resolution calls for enabling legislation permitting funds for mandated information services dealing with public agency publications.

Before legislation can be introduced, some institution must accept responsibility for full depository status and propose this legislation. At present, no institution has stepped forward to accept this responsibility.

The problems of establishing a regional depository for Missouri with state support must still be solved through statewide action.

**Resolved**, that a portion of the state aid to public libraries be given over to percentage reimbursement of monies spent by local libraries on materials purchased under shared resource plans.

**Resolved**, that the Missouri statutes dealing with state aid to public libraries be changed to reflect the following: the Missouri State Library be authorized and empowered to render such aid and assistance, financial, advisory and/or otherwise, to public, school and academic libraries or networks under such conditions and rules and regulations as are deemed necessary to further the interest of the citizenry and best increase the efficiency of the service which any library is expected to render to its public.

**Resolved**, that library networks be established throughout the state and that local participation in them be encouraged, but not required.

All of these resolutions pertain to cooperation and the sharing of resources. WHCLIS resolution C2 deals with resource sharing and networking. It affirms that resource sharing is mandated by the information explosion, escalating costs of resources, and the disparity of resources available because of geographic location or socio-economic status. The WHCLIS resolution calls for a comprehensive approach to the development of multi-type networks and suggests that control of such networks remain at the state or regional level. Federal and state funding is requested to continue to support and interconnect existing networks and to develop new networks. Missouri is now divided into regional networks, and all are operational except for the southeast Missouri region. Participation in any state regional network is voluntary.

*Implementation Strategy:*

The Library Planning Committee of the CBHE should evaluate the suggested changes and suggest ways that they can be adopted.

**Resolved**, that a future state conference on libraries and information services (using the same guidelines as this conference) be sponsored and financed by the Missouri State Library five years from

the current date to reassess the state's libraries for future improvements.

WHCLIS resolution F3 calls for a national conference every decade. If this recommendation were followed, state conferences would be likely.



*LEXIS database demonstration at the Missouri Governor's Conference.*

## **RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR FEDERAL ACTION OR LEGISLATION**



**Resolved**, that independent libraries supported by private foundations whose only responsibility is support of such libraries, if those libraries are fully open to the public, be classified in the Internal Revenue Code as educational institutions, thus exempting them from federal income taxes.

WHCLIS passed resolution B13 on tax-exempt status for independent libraries with wording identical to the Missouri resolution. Federal legislation is pending, and individuals should continue to remind their legislators.

**Resolved**, that the conference support the establishment of a national periodicals center to be funded by the federal government.

WHCLIS endorses and supports a national library act incorporating the general principles, goals and objectives of S1124. That bill includes the establishment of a national periodicals center, and legislation is pending.

*Implementation Strategy:*

Since the Governor's Conference, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science sponsored a study by Arthur D. Little, Inc. which recommends a National Periodicals System. That system includes a modified National Periodicals Center with subsystems for document storage and delivery.

## RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR ACTION AT ALL LEVELS



**Resolved, that effective public relations programs be developed at all levels to explain the role of libraries and to encourage individuals to use library services.**

WHCLIS resolution A6 deals with public awareness. It calls for a number of activities, projects and proposals. These can include demonstration projects, training in public relations, provision for consultants, encouragement of volunteer organizations and utilization of all local, state and national agencies and groups to attain necessary support.

*Implementation Strategy:*

Organize a Friends of the Library group which has as one of its purposes to increase the public awareness of the services of the local library.

The State Library and a committee of Governor's Conference delegates might identify agencies, organizations or businesses which will volunteer the use of their time, facilities or personnel to design a statewide public relations campaign for all libraries. Local residents can seek funding through local sources for the development of public service announcements which could be shared by all communities within the state. Other states, Florida, for instance, have received aid from their statewide Advertising Council.

Library Services and Construction Act funds could be utilized for the development of some public relations activities.

**Resolved, that continuing education programs for board of trustee members be provided and presented on a yearly basis in easily accessible locations.**

WHCLIS did not pass any resolutions specifically dealing with continuing education of trustees. However, White House Conference resolution C15 is being edited to include trustees. Interested citizens, especially trustees, should pursue this issue.

*Implementation Strategy:*

The Trustees and Citizens Division of MLA should address itself to this resolution, perhaps with the aid of the State Library, a grant, or with the continuing education department of the University of Missouri. Suggested programs might include:

- \* how to conduct a needs assessment to determine community needs.

- \* planning for change.
- \* training in library advocacy.
- \* how to hire a librarian.
- \* how to secure and effectively use local, state and federal funding.
- \* how to write a grant.
- \* how to develop library plans, objectives, and policies.

**Resolved, that all library systems review policies and consider user fees.**

WHCLIS resolutions A3 and A5 emphasize information in a free society as a basic right and advocate the right of access without charge or fee. No WHCLIS resolution recommends user fees or even recognizes that they should be considered. There is apparent widespread opposition to user fees.

**Resolved, that cooperation between school and public libraries be encouraged; and, that school and public libraries not be combined.**

WHCLIS resolution C3 states that cooperative planning must be encouraged between school and public libraries. WHCLIS stressed cooperation between types of libraries, but did not consider combination.

*Implementation Strategy:*

White House and Governor's Conference delegates, Missouri school librarians, library and/or school board members might develop a resume of examples of co-operation between school and public library boards, so that libraries wishing to pursue any suggested plan could contact the library for further information, which could be published in *Show-Me Libraries* or other professional publications.

Federal LSCA Title III grants available through the State Library have a funding category established titled "Multi-type Library Cooperation," which could provide monies to facilitate the implementation of this resolution.

**Resolved, that the elderly, the handicapped, and the illiterate or semi-literate members of society are not well served by our present libraries and information services; therefore, aid should be given by the State Library and by other agencies of local, state and national government to provide suitable forms of information such as films, video materials, audio-tapes, or simplified works for those presently unserved because of physical, mental or educational handicaps.**

**Resolved, that libraries for the blind and other handicapped persons:**

1. find a more realistic way of measuring growth other than the number of books mailed, which



Pictured above are Missouri's delegates and alternates to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services. Back row: Assunta Lilley, Richmond Heights; Diane Smith, Ozark; Joseph Scanlon, Kansas City; Denny Pilant, Springfield; Nancy Stiegemeyer, Cape Girardeau; Charles O'Halloran, Jefferson City; Gwendolyn Myers, Webster Groves; Ron Bohley, Rolla; Marilyn Lake, Columbia, and Judith Campbell, Fenton. Front row: Joan Collett, St. Louis; Sara Hill, Kansas City; Susie Donnelly, Jefferson City; Henry Bent, Columbia, and Mildred King, Springfield. Not pictured: Mark Freeman, Houston.

forces librarians to mail a large quantity of unwanted books to uninterested readers and therefore inhibits genuine service;

2. differentiate between materials needed by recreational and scholarly readers;
3. utilize the handicapped on advisory boards and committees created to advise on modernizing facilities for the physically handicapped;
4. acquire braille materials which correspond to talking books and cassettes;
5. maintain better statistical records on materials for the handicapped.

Several WHCLIS resolutions dealt with the problems of special constituencies. Resolutions A4, D1 and D4 all deal with special constituencies. The issues addressed outline specific needs of various disabled communities and others with special needs. Resolutions deal with access-related issues as well as special information.

**Resolved, that the principle of local control is essential and must be maintained.**

**Resolved, that acceptance of state and federal programs may require a reasonable modification of attitudes regarding absolute local control.**

*Implementation Strategy:*

WHCLIS resolution A9 states: Whereas, there should be a National Information Policy; therefore, be it resolved that such a National Information Policy shall include provisions which ensure local control of community libraries and information service. Governor's Conference resolutions called for the maintenance of local control, but recognized as well that some modification of attitudes might be necessary for cooperative efforts crossing jurisdictional lines. All past federal library legislation (i.e., LSCA, HEA, ESEA) has preserved the concept of local control. All citizens should be alert to the implementation of federal funding and its effect on local control.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

ALA—American Library Association

CBHE—Coordinating Board for Higher Education

ESEA—Elementary and Secondary Education Act

HEA—Higher Education Act

LSCA—Library Services and Construction Act

MLA—Missouri Library Association

MNEA—Missouri National Education Association

MSTA—Missouri State Teachers Association

NCLIS—National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

NPC—National Periodicals Center

NPS—National Periodicals System

OCLC—Previously, Ohio College Library Center--now simply, OCLC, Inc.

WHCLIS—White House Conference on Library and Information Services

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*Final Report, The White House Conference on Library and Information Services—1979.* Available from WHCLIS, 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 601, Washington, D.C. 20036, attention: Kelvin V. Kachett. First copy free; additional copies \$3.00 each in multiples of ten only.

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